

R E M A R K S

In view of the Amendment filed on December 10, 2007, the rejections in view of USP 7,197,531 ("Anderson") and in view of the combination of Anderson and US 2002/0032909 ("Shiota et al") have been withdrawn.

However, claims 11, 12 and 14 have now been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Anderson, Shiota et al, US 2002/0198954 ("Okamoto et al") and USP 6,778,289 ("Iwata"). Claim 15 has now been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Anderson and Iwata. Claims 16 and 20 have now been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Anderson, Shiota et al and Okamoto et al. Claim 18 has now been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Anderson, Shiota et al, and Iwata. And claim 13 has now been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Anderson, Shiota et al, Okamoto et al, iwata, and US 2002/0154336 ("Takei").

These rejections, however, are all respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 11 recites a network printing system comprising a terminal device, a server, and a printing machine that are connected to each other via a network.

According to claim 11, the printing machine comprises: an e-mail address acquiring unit which acquires an e-mail address of the terminal device; an address generating unit which generates a temporary address of the server; an e-mail transmitter which transmits an e-mail, which includes the temporary address generated by the address generating unit, to the e-mail address acquired by the e-mail address acquiring unit; a determiner which determines whether image data has been transmitted by the terminal device to be stored at the temporary address designated by the e-mail transmitted by the e-mail transmitter; a receiver which accesses the server and designates the temporary address to receive image data transmitted by the server in response to the access, if the determiner determines that the image data has been transmitted by the terminal device to be stored at the temporary address; and a printing unit which prints the image data received by the receiver.

In addition, according to claim 11, the terminal device comprises: an image capturing unit which captures images of subjects and generates image data representing the captured images; an e-mail receiver which receives the e-mail including the temporary address of the server, from the printing machine; and a transmitter which accesses the temporary address of the server included in the e-mail received by the e-mail receiver,

and which transmits image data generated by the image capturing unit to the server.

Still further, according to claim 11, the server comprises: an image receiver which receives the image data transmitted from the terminal device that has accessed the temporary address of the server; a storage unit which stores the image data received by the image receiver at the temporary address; and an image transmitter which transmits designated image data stored at the temporary address in the storage unit, to the printing machine in response to the access by the printing machine designating the temporary address.

As explained in the Amendment filed on December 10, 2007, with the structure of the present invention as recited in, for example, independent claim 11, a user may input an e-mail address of a terminal device, such as a mobile phone, by operating a printing machine such as a printing automatic vending machine. The printing machine generates an address (URL) for accessing a server and transmits an e-mail message including the URL to a mobile phone.

Unlike a normal stationary URL, the address generated according to claim 11 (and the temporary address recited in each of independent claims 14, 15, 16, 18 and 20 as well), is an address for indicating an area which is secured for temporarily storing image data at a server. Therefore, this is an address to

be temporarily setup every time the system is utilized. Thus, the terminal device, such as a mobile phone, uploads image data to a server by accessing the temporary URL.

As also explained in the Amendment filed on December 10, 2007, the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, for example, is capable of transmitting image data (photo data) stored in a mobile phone to a server, by operating a printing machine contingently chosen by a user (e.g., from various printing machines at various locations around a city). That is, according to claim 11, for example, inputting an e-mail address of the mobile phone (for example) by a user from a given printing machine results in the printing machine transmitting an e-mail message to the mobile phone, and a URL (for example) for accessing a server and for uploading image data is included in the email. The URL is a temporary address (issued every time a user utilizes a printing machine).

The server stores the image data in a storage domain indicated by the URL, when image data is uploaded from a mobile phone accessing the URL. Thus, even if the same user (terminal device, for example, mobile phone) accesses different printing machines at different times, different temporary addresses will be issued for the different accesses, and the image data transmitted from the mobile phone will be stored at different

locations corresponding to the different temporary addresses of the server.

On the other hand, if the URL were a predetermined fixed URL, the URL would need to be stated as a description or the like of a printing machine or be notified to a user in advance. By contrast, with the structure of the present invention, a temporary URL is issued, to be transmitted to a mobile phone, every time a user uses a printing machine. Thus, the URL is not merely employed for accessing a server, but for indicating a storage domain to store image data as well.

For example, with the structure of the present invention, a mobile phone having a JAVA application program installed thereon may automatically upload image data to a server upon receipt of an e-mail including a URL indicating a location of the server to be accessed to store the image data, and the image data may be forwarded to a printing machine to be printed. Thus, the present invention is capable of providing a user with an easy printing service in which merely inputting an e-mail address of a mobile phone to a printing machine results in image data automatically being uploaded to a server from the mobile phone and forwarded to the printing machine from a server.

Accordingly, the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, for example, is capable of providing a user with an easily used printing service, in which automatic uploading of

image data to a server from a mobile phone is initiated merely by inputting an email address of the mobile phone to a printing machine, and in which the image data may be forwarded to the printing machine from the server. Moreover, the present invention does not require the user to search for a URL of a server or to memorize such a URL in advance, and the user may utilize a printing machine regardless of location to obtain the same printing service.

In contrast to the structure recited in independent claim 11, Anderson merely discloses direct transmission/reception of data between a terminal (client device 12) and a server (gateway server 20). And it is respectfully submitted that Anderson does not disclose, teach or suggest a technique for automatically transmitting/receiving data between a server and a mobile phone, wherein the technique is originated at a printing machine, and wherein data is eventually forwarded to the printing machine to be printed.

Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Anderson merely discloses a technique in which image data is uploaded to different sites (photo-service sites 14), and in which the images on each site can be browsed by accessing the server from a terminal.

Moreover, it is respectfully pointed out that according to Anderson, the server merely stores management information with

respect to image data stored in each site (or in the terminal itself).

It is respectfully submitted that Anderson does not disclose a system which can provide the same ease of use for a user as the structure recited in independent claim 11, for example, that Anderson merely discloses a well-known conventional technique.

And it is respectfully submitted that Anderson does not disclose, in particular, receiving, at the terminal, a temporary address generated by the printing machine, and designating, by the terminal unit, a temporary address to access the server to send (upload) the image data. That is, Anderson does not disclose the e-mail receiver of the terminal device, the address generating unit of the printing machine, or the transmitter of the terminal device recited in claim 11.

Shiota et al, Okamoto et al, Iwata and Takei, moreover, have been cited in the rejections of various claims to supply the teachings of additional features that the Examiner acknowledges are not disclosed by Anderson.

Shiota et al discloses directly uploading image data to a server from a terminal such as a mobile phone. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Shiota et al does not disclose means for assigning a server as transmission destination and transmitting image data by a digital camera or a PDA. And it is respectfully submitted that Shiota et al does not disclose a technique for

transmitting image data stored in a mobile phone to a server, by operating a printing machine contingently chosen by a user. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Shiota et al does not disclose a technique for transmitting an e-mail address including a temporary URL to be used to access a server to a mobile phone from a printing machine and of storing image data being transmitted to a server from a mobile phone accessing the URL in a storage domain in a server indicated by the URL. Still further, it is respectfully submitted that Shiota et al does not disclose a technique for forwarding image data to be printed to a printing machine from a server. Thus, like Anderson, Shiota et al fails to disclose the principles of the structure and operation of the claimed present invention.

Okamoto et al discloses reading, by a URL, image data stored in a storage device. However, as described in paragraph [0118] of Okamoto et al, the URL merely locates the storage device to which the image data is stored. That is, the address is derived after that the storage device stores the image data. Therefore, the address disclosed by Okamoto et al is significantly different from the temporary address generated by the printing machine (address generating unit).

Iwata discloses a technique in which a computer device (E102) checks with a server device via a printer (E101) in the case in which a document located in the server device (E103) is printed.

That is, as described in col. 5, lines 38-65 of Iwata, a document information transmission request (X200) is sent from the computer to the printer, the printer transfers the document information transmission request to the server device, the server device then re-sends document information (X201) including reference information of each document to the printer, and the printer sends the document information to the computer, which is the requester. According to Iwata, the document information (reference information) is also an address obtained after that the server device stores the document. Therefore, the document information of Iwata is significantly different from the temporary address generated by the print machine (address generating unit) as recited in, for example, claim 11.

Finally, Takei merely discloses a camcorder that can record DPOF files.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if the combinations of the cited references cited by the Examiner were considered to be reasonable, the resultant combinations would not achieve or render obvious the system, server, printing machine, or method as recited in independent claims 11, 14-16, 18 and 20.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claims 11, 14-16, 18 and 20 and claims 12 and 13 depending from claim 11 clearly

patentably distinguishes over all of the cited references, taken in any combination, under 35 USC 103.

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Allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
220 Fifth Avenue - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10001-7708
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

DH:iv:ak
encs.